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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 32051 100833Z
11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /060 W
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O R 100725Z DEC 76 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 32051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, NAC, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: NATOMIN: MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN
MINISTERIAL SESSION DECEMBER 9, 1976; AGENDA ITEM I, STANDARDIZATION
OF ARMAMENTS: INTEROPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT

REF: A. USNATO 6522 DTG 291930Z NOV76 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: DURING NAC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION
AND INTEROPERABILITY, FORLANI (ITALY) NOTED THAT THERE MAY
BE WAYS IN ADDITION TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE (AHC) ON EQUIP-
MENT INTEROPERABILITY TO MAKE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPER-
ABILITY MORE EFFECTIVE. HE SAID THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP
(EPG) WAS ACCOMPLISHING ITS TASKS, AND THAT IT HAD, DURING
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PAGE 02 SECTO 32051 100833Z

THE NOVEMBER 22-23 PLENARY, ASKED THE TECHNICAL BODIES TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

MAKE STUDIES AND PROPOSALS TO INCLUDE ALL ALLLES IN
COOPERATION FOR DEFENSE. GE GUIRINGAUD (FRANCE) PRAISED
THE WORK OF THE AHC AND MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR ITS CONTINUATION.
HE SAID IT IS AN EXCELLENT TOOL FOR THE NAC AND, SINCE
INTEROPERABILITY PROBLEMS REMAIN, WE SHOULD NOT DO AWAY
WITH ITS SERVICES, WHICH PROVIDE THE IMPULSE REQUIRED TO
SOLVE THE NON-TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES THAT ARISE. MINISTERS
APPROVED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTEROPERABILITY
REPORT, AND NOTED BOTH THE STANDARDIZATION REPORT AND
THE STATUS REPORT ON MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS ON STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-
OPERABILITY, SYG LUNS NOTED THAT THIS ITEM IS PLACED
FIRST ON THE AGENDA TO ALLOW THE TWO DEFENSE MINISTERS STILL
IN BRUSSELS (CANADA/NORWAY) TO BE PRESENT. THE THREE
DOCUMENTS ON THE AGENDA ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO EACH
OTHER AND HAVE ALL BEEN EXAMINED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS.
TURNING TO THE INTEROPERABILITY REPORT, C-M(76)UP(REVISED),
LUNS SAID THAT IT IS THE SECOND REPORT BY THE AD HOC
COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY WHICH MINISTERS
SET UP ONE YEAR AGO. HE NOTED THAT THE INTITIAL TASKS ON
TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS, REARMING OF TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STANAGS ARE COMPLETED, THAT
THERE ARE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THESE AND OTHER
AREAS, AND, AS THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT COMPLETED ALL ITS
TASKS, THERE IS A RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING ITS FURTURE.
LUNS THEN INVITED MINISTERS TO TAKE THE ACTIONS SET FORTH
IN THE DOCUMENT, NOTING THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE
ALREADY ENDORSED THEM.

2. FORLANI (ITALY) OPENED DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING
APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE AHC WHICH, HE SAID, HAS
GIVEN POSITIVE RESULTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE COMPLEX
FIELDS OF AIRCRAFT REARMING, COMMUNICATIONS, AND
STANDARDIZATION AGREEMENTS. IN VIEW OF THE COMPLEXITY
OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMITTEE, HE FOUND IT NOT
SURPRISING THAT IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE
AHC'S MANDATE SO THAT TASKS CAN BE CONCLUDED. STILL,
HE NOTED, MINISTERS SHOULD NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT
THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER WAYS TO MAKE INTEROPERABILITY AND
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STANDARDIZATION EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE. IN THE INDUSTRIAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE.
HE SAID THE EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP HAS PURSUED ITS TASKS,
AND AT THE SECOND PLENARY IN ROME ON NOVEMBER 22-23,
HAD ASKED ITS TECHNICAL BODIES TO MAKE STUDIES AND PROPOSALS
TO INCLUDE ALL ALLIES IN COOPERATION FOR DEFENSE.

3. DE GUIRINGAUD (FRANCE) POINTED OUT THAT AT THE OSLO NAC

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MEETING HIS PREDECESSOR HAD EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE WORK
OF THE AHC, AND SAID THAT TODAY'S REPORT SHOWS HE WAS
CORRECT. HE OFFERED HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
COMMITTEE FOR ITS WORK IN AN AREA WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARE
ENORMOUSLY DIFFICULT AND HAVE NEVER BEEN SOLVED; BUT NOW,
HE SAID, "WE ARE ON THE WAY." HE NOTED THAT AT THE NEXT
MEETING MINISTERS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE COMMITTEE'S
FUTURE, AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN A PROPOSAL TO RETAIN IT
AS A STANDING COMMITTEE WITH WIDER TERMS OF REFERENCE.
THIS THE COUNCIL MUST STUDY. FRANCE, HE SAID,
BELIEVES THE AHC IS AN EXCELLENT TOOL FOR THE NAC AND,
SINCE INTEROPERABILITY PROBLEMS WHICH IMPACT ON MILITARY
EFFICIENCY REMAIN, "WE SHOULD NOT DO AWAY WITH ITS
SERVICES." MOREOVER, THE AHC MUST FIRST DETERMINE
MEASURE FOR ASSURING THE INTEROPERABILITY OF FUTURE
EQUIPMENT, AND THEN IT MUST CONTROL THE MEANS SELECTED
FOR CARRYING OUT THESE MEASURES. IN CONCLUSION DE GUIRINGAUD
SAID, EVEN IF WE GIVE THE INTEROPERABILITY TASKS TO THE
CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARAMENTS DIRECTORS AND THE
MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION, THE NAC, THROUGH ITS
AHC, MUST PROVIDE THE REQUIRED IMPULSE SO THAT NON-
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES IN INTEROPERABILITY CAN BE STRAIGHTENED
OUT.

4. LUNS NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS, LIKE DEFENSE MINISTERS,
WELCOMED THE DOCUMENT AND APPROVED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. TURING
TO THE STANDARDIZATION REPORT, DPC/D(76)26REVISED), LUNS
SAID THAT IT COVERED RECENT PROGRESS IN COOPERATION IN CERTAIN
EQUIPMENT AREAS AND IN THE EXAMINATION OF A POSSIBLE
PERIODIC ARAMENTS PLANNING SYSTEM. IT IS TRANSMITTED TO
THE COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION BECAUSE STANDARDIZATION IS
WITHIN THAT BODY'S FIELD OF INTEREST AND BECAUSE THE MOST
INTERESTED BODY, CNAD,IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE
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PAGE 04 SECTO 32051 100833Z

COUNCIL. MINISTERS NOTED THE REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT.

5. INTRODUCING THE LAST DOCUMENT, A STATUS REPORT
ON MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS (PO/76/115(REVISED)), LUNS
SAID THAT IT, TOO, IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION IN VIEW
OF S CONNECTION WITH ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS FOR
INTEROPERABILITY AND ITS INTEREST TO ALL NATIONS OF THE
ALLIANCE. HE ADDED THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS HAD NOTED
THE REPORT AND ENCOURAGED ALL TO COMPLETE THE WORK.
MINISTERS NOTED THE DOCUMENT WITHOUT COMMENT. KISSINGER

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